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21 May 1964

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Dept. review completed



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\*USSR-Laos: Moscow's recent unwillingness to co-operate in efforts to restrain Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese forces and the recall of the chief Polish ICC delegate may signal a shift in Soviet bloc policy in Laos.

The USSR and Poland apparently are pursuing a line of disengagement from their respective roles of Geneva conference co-chairman and member of the Laos ICC. Moscow seems to have decided there is no longer any prospect of restoring the Souvanna coalition government and that further efforts toward this end would only antagonize the North Vietnamese and drive them closer to Peiping.

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According to the Indian ambassador in Vientiane, the Soviet ambassador, embassy counselor, and military attaché plan to leave Laos within the next ten days. All Soviet Embassy personnel have received visas for India, purportedly as an evacuation preparedness measure. In a message to Souvanna broadcast by the Pathet Lao radio on 19 May, Souphannouvong warned that Lao rightist treatment of the Polish and North Vietnamese missions may lead to the "rupture of diplomatic relations between the socialist countries and Laos."

The shift in the Soviet attitude has come on the heels of sharp denunciations by Hanoi and Peiping of the "merger" between Souvanna's neutralists and right-wing Laotian forces as "illegal" and "absolutely intolerable." In the face of aggressive Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese

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tactics since mid-May, Soviet leaders apparently found it increasingly difficult to support Souvanna's efforts to restore the situation.

Moscow probably will seize upon France's public call for a meeting of the signatories of the 1962 Geneva agreements to press for a new conference. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Lapin told the British ambassador on 19 May that the USSR favors a new conference and hopes the UK will reconsider its position on this question. In the Soviet view, a conference could forestall Western military intervention in Laos and at the same time restrain the North Vietnamese and block an expansion of Chinese influence in Southeast Asia.

The US Embassy in Paris believes the French may propose broadening the mandate of the conference to include all of Indochina. De Gaulle has broken off a vacation to preside at a cabinet meeting today. The British Embassy in Paris has information that a major French statement on Indochina will be issued.

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NOTES

Indonesia: The Indonesian police have warned the US Embassy that the Communist Party plans a demonstration against it within a few days. The Communists reportedly will accuse the US of intervening in favor of Malaysia, on the ground that under the ANZUS treaty Australia's recent modest increase in military support for Malaysia is the equivalent of US interference. For some months, the Communists have sought an issue concerning Malaysia which they could use to shift the focus of their agitation from the UK to the US.

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Zanzibar: Communist training of the Zanzibar Army is continuing, apparently with the aim of displacing Tanganyikan police on the island with Zanzibari troops as soon as possible.

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A large training camp--one of three new camps planned for the 1,000-man army--is under construction.

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Brazil-USSR: Soviet representatives reportedly are contacting private firms in Brazil concerning possible purchases of an estimated 500,000 bags of coffee. This would represent one half the 1964 quota under the three-year Soviet-Brazilian trade pact signed last year. Total Soviet coffee purchases from Brazil during 1963 amounted to 216,000 bags. While the total volume of Soviet-Brazilian trade has been reduced this year by Moscow's failure to ship wheat, the USSR has continued substantial oil deliveries to Brazil.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES

The United States Intelligence Board, on 20 May 1964, approved the following national intelligence estimates:

NIE 34-64, "Iran." [REDACTED]

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SNIE 73-64, "Short-Term Prospects for South Africa." [REDACTED]

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